680 acre

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1. Namo					
historic	Woodville	Aquas	co		
and or common	Aquasco H	istoric	District (prefer	red) SURVEY DIS	TRICT
2. Loca	tion				
-	Aquasco R	oad (MD	Rt. 381), St. Ma	ry's Church Road,	/ A do while a big -
street & number	Dr. Bowen	Road,	St. Philip's Road		n/anot for publication
city, town	Aquasco		n/a vicinity of	congressional district	Eighth
state	Maryland	code	24 county	Prince George's	code 033
3. Class	sificatio	n			
Category X. district bullding(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisit in process being consid X not appli	lered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use X agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence X religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Pro	peri	ty		
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name .				n 50)	
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7. Description

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n/a

Condition

excellent deteriorated unaltered X original site
X good ruins X altered moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Reso	urces	Number of previously listed
Contributing 53	Noncontributing 29 buildings	National Register properties included in this nomination:
0 0 0	0 sites 0 structures 0 objects	Original and historic functions and uses: agricultural, commercial, residential
53	29Total	

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Aquasco is a small agricultural community located at the southernmost tip of Prince George's County, Maryland. It lies on gently rolling farmland between the floodplain of the Patuxent River on the east and Swanson's Creek on the west and south. The community's agriculture consists mainly of middle-to late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century vernacular buildings, with farmhouses, barns, and related outbuildings being the most common structures. In addition, churches, schools, and commercial buildings are represented. All of the contributing houses are of frame construction, and represent one of several basic types, with variations in form, ornamentation, and modifications. Buildings designated as non-contributing buildings are residential and commercial structures which are less than fifty years old.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Aquasco is a small agricultural community located at the southern tip of Prince George's County, Maryland. It occupies an area of approximately 15 square miles on a peninsula of land bounded by the Patuxent River estuary on the east and Swanson's Creek on the west and south. The terrain is mostly flat on the high ground at the center of the peninsula, and becomes gently rolling as it slopes off to the watercourses, with steeper slopes and ravines along the tributary creeks. The highest ground lies about 150 to 175 feet above sea level, and falls off to about 50 to 75 feet above sea level before dropping to the floodplain, which is broad and marshy at most locations along the Patuxent.

The land included in the Aquasco Historic District is an area of approximately 680 acres, or 1 square mile, encompassing a large portion of the high ground at the center of the community and the adjacent countryside as far as Swanson's creek on the west.

Aquasco has long been a tobacco farming region, and about one-third of the land is still in field today, with tobacco and corn the primary crops. The remaining land is occupied by open pasture, woodland of relatively recent growth, and single-family residential properties ranging in size from about one-half to ten acres.

Aquasco Road (MD Rt. 381) runs from north to south through the center of Aquasco, and is the principal transportation route through the area. Secondary roads intersect Aquasco Road at intervals, branching out to the east and west and leading toward the river and creek. These roads include St. Mary's Church Road, the river and creek. These roads include St. Mary's Church Road, Eagle Harbor Road, and Neck Road to the east, and Dr. Bowen Road, St. Phillips Road, and John Wesley Church (Christ Church) Road to the west. The intersection of Aquasco Road with St. Mary's Church Road and Dr. Bowen Road establishes an easily identifiable center for the community, marked by St. Mary's Church on the southeast corner of the intersection and the J. C. Thomas house on the northeast corner.

Most of the houses in the community are located along the main roads, with the densest concentration along Aquasco Road. Typically, the houses are sited relatively close to the road, with setback of between 50 and 150 feet. They are spaced widely apart at irregular intervals, although along Aquasco Road in the center of the community there are small concentrations of adjacent houses, particularly where lots have been subdivided for new houses in the twentieth century.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Some of the larger houses are set farther back from the road, up to 800 feet, and include numerous outbuildings situated behind the main house. Generally, these buildings were the main residences on the large farms and estates of the community, which were typically between 100 and 500 acres in size. Most of these houses still occupy large parcels of land in field, pasture, or woodland that extends beyond the house into the adjacent countryside.

Most of the houses, both small and large, are sited on a hill, rise, or other high ground. There is usually a dirt or gravel drive leading to the house, often ending with a circular turn-around and providing access to the outbuildings and fields to the rear. Even the most modest houses usually have some landscaping, typically including mature trees near the house and various other shrubs and plantings. Some of the larger houses have more elaborate landscaping, such as the Adams-Bowen House (#3) which has a formal garden, picket and ginerbread fences, and trellises. Some buildings have 19th-century hand-pump wells (for example, #2, #36, #40), or fenced fields and pastures (#7, #9, #37), and there are cemeteries associated with the churches and some houses (#14, #19, #30, #34), but other such built features in the landscape are minimal.

The buildings in the Aquasco Historic District are mostly middle- to late-nineteenth century and early twentieth century farmhouses, barns and outbuildings. There are a few institutional buildings and commercial buildings, and a number of twentieth-century houses. Of eighty-two structures and sites in the district, twenty-nine have been designated as contributing to the character of the district. In general, all buildings less than fifty years old have been designated non-contributing, even though some of these are compatible with the character of the area or may provide significant expressions of the community's more recent growth (for example, the IGA store, #K).

Nearly all of the contributing structures in the district, including all of the houses, are of wood frame constructio.

The simplest and earliest type of house construction is a single-room or double-room structure, typically one story with an attic, covered by a gable roof that was often extended at a gentler slope to cover a front porch or rear shed extension (#2, #4, #9, #16, #27, #31, #37),

The earliest free-standing house of this type is said to be the Wood House (#27), a $1\frac{1}{2}$ story, five-bay building with a gable roof extending over porches in front and back. Most of the extant houses of this type, however, have long been integrated as appendages to larger houses (#2, #4, #9, #37). Several of these older structures, reputedly 18th-century and subsequently

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

used as kitchens, are of hand-hewn log construction (the John E. Turner House, #37, the Michael J. Stone House, #9, and possibly House #2). Another example of the type, the Cochrane House (#16) is comprised of two separate structures joined side-by-side. All of these examples illustrate one of the most significant and prevalent aspects of house development in Aquasco - the accretion of usually larger house forms onto older structures. This process illustrates both the practical attitude to building in the community and the necessity in a rural society to conserve the investment represented by earlier houses.

Another significant aspect of house development in Aquasco, the tendency to continue using the same basic house types relatively unchanged, is shown by a twentieth-century example of this house type, the Villa de Sales Tenant House (#31).

A second early house type represented in Aquasco is the stack house, a two-story structure with one room on each floor (House, #2).

The most prevalent nineteenth-century farmhouse type is the "I" house, a two-story structure with center hall and side parlors, one room deep. The "I" house is characterized by its long and usually unornamented rectangular shape, gable roof with chimneys at each end, and vertical proportions. It is usually composed of three bays in the earlier examples and five bays in the later. A variant is the "2/3 I" house, which is similar but has a side hall and only one parlor. Later examples of the "I" house often have rear appendages, cross gables, and modest ornamentation.

The pure "I" house plan can be viewed in the Thomas Tenant House (#4) and the Conway Young House (#5); the "2/3 I" house is best represented by the Connick House (#40). Other "I" houses with rear appendages, additions, and other modifications include the Compton House (#8), the Young Farmhouse (#10), the Hall House (#32), the Miss Delilah Waters House (#8), and other Houses (#11, 12, 20, 22, and 23). In some of the "I" houses, there are very large additions that completely transform the original form and image of the house - for example, the Dr. John Dare House (#18), and the Michael J. Stone House (#9).

The other most prevalent 19th-century house type represented in Aquasco is the Georgian plan house, with center hall and double parlors on either side, and the similar "2/3 Georgian," or the side hall and double parlor plan. These houses are usually larger in size, 2 or 2½ stories, and three or five bays with a gable or hipped roof. Many of them are main blocks that were built as additions to earlier houses, and most have Italianate ornamentation and finely finished interiors.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The 2/3 Georgian form is represented in the J. C. Thomas House (#1), the P. A. Bowen House (#7), St. Mary's Rectory (#35), and the John E. Turner House (#37). The full Georgian form is represented in the high-style houses such as the Adams-Bowen House (#3) and the William Barker House (#28). It is a revealing reflection on the permanence of the additive building tradition in Aquasco that the Adams-Bowen House, although designed and built as a unit, imitates the aggregate form with its large, symmetrical main block in the front and narrow, vertical, and asymmetrical rear wing.

The most elaborate house in Aquasco, the Villa de Sales (#29), represents the high-style electicism that influenced the area at the culmination of the Victorian era. This house has an aggregate plan and multiplicity of Victorian features, including picturesque massing, large porches, combined gable and hipped roofs, patterned slate, and profuse ornament.

Early 20th-century house forms are represented in Aquasco by several modest bungalows (#15, #21).

The two churches in the Aquasco Historic District are important visual landmarks in the community (St. Dominic's R. C. Chapel, #30, St. Mary's Church, #34). They are masonry buildings similar in form, each with a large gable-roofed nave, bell-tower, and Gothic detailing. The district also includes the site of the Methodist Episcopal Church (#19).

The one school represented in the district, the Woodville Schoolhouse (#36) is a well-preserved example of a rural schoolhouse with its small yard and large windows admitting light into the classroom.

There are few commercial buildings within the district, reflecting its primarily agricultural character. Most of the presently used commercial buildings are non-contributing 20th-century structures. However, there are some older commercial structures, including the Aquasco Mill ruin (#6), dating from ca. 1789, some farmhouses on Aquasco Road that may also have served as small stores (for example, #33), and the Grimes Store dating from ca. 1935 (#17).

The greatest number of farm buildings in Aquasco are tobacco barns of vertical hand or machine-hewn frame construction with gabled, standing seam metal roofs. Among the most prominent of these are the Holland tobacco barns (#13); other typical examples are located in fields off Dr. Bowen Road (#2, #7, #8), and off Aquasco Road (#18, #22, #24, #25, #29, #39, #40).

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Another barn type represented is a gable-roofed central barn surrounded by a shed apron. Examples of this type include the Selby tobacco barn (#13) and one of the Compton tobacco barns (#8).

Several of the largest houses in Aquasco include numerous outbuildings (#3, #18, #29, #37). At the end of the 19th century, architectural style began to influence the design of some of these outbuildings. Examples of this include the prominently sited combination barn/stable/corn crib at the Adams-Bowen House, with its cross-gable resembling an "I" house (#3), and the rare Victorian high-style stable at Villa de Sales (#29).

Other farm buildings and outbuildings represented in the Historic District include corn cribs (#7, #9, #29, #37). hen houses (#3, #18, #29), somke houses (#3, #7, #29, #37), ice houses (#9,, #25), milking barns (#7, #29) slave/servant quarters (#9, #37), and numerous sheds.

A few outbuildings are reputed to survive from the eighteenth century. These include the kitchen wing at the Michael J. Stone House (#9) and three structures at the John E. Turner House (#37) - a barn, a small, gable-roofed one-room hand-hewn log cabin which served as a slave or servant's house, and a vertical-frame smokehouse. Most other barns and outbuildings probably date from the 19th century. There are several recent barns within the district that maintain the traditional construction methods (#A, #7, #8, #13, #35).

Additions and/or alterations have occurred to most of the contributing buildings in Aquasco Historic District. Some have involved minor modifications as a result of modernization, but others have been more extensive. In many cases, these alterations or additions date from the 19th century, and are an important expression of the evolutionary character of the buildings. In many cases, the 20th-century additions are equally compatible and can be seen as part of a continuing tradition of change and adaptation.

8. Significance

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Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance— archeology-prehistoric X agriculture X architecture art — commerce — communications		politics/government	religion science sculpture social humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	c 1800-1935	Builder Architect	unknown	

Specific dates c.1800-1930

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, C Applicable Exceptions: none Significance Evaluated:

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Aquasco Historic Tistrict represents one of the few remaining examples of a well-preserved agricultural community in Southern Maryland that reached its height in the nineteents century. Its evolution as a town center for neighboring tobacco farms is typical of the region. However, its variety of house types ranging from moiest vernacular "I" houses to distinctively stylish Victorian estates presents i rare, rich assemblage of buildings in a small agrarian center. The landscape and the traditional farm buildings , as well as the houses, are still in good condition, having suffered only moderate instrucion by alteration and incompatible construction. The district creates a strong and unusual visual image in southern Prince George's County of a significant time and aspect of the county's history.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Prince George's County was formed in 1696 out of territory previously held by Calvert and Charles Counties. The division of the land into smaller sections for administrative purposes created Prince Frederick Hundred in the southernmost tip of the county, the region now designated as the Aquasco District. No. 8. Within the hundred, small settlement centers evolved. them was the town of Aquasco, known in the nineteenth century as Woodville, which is the focus of this historic district nomination.

The area around Aquasco was divided into large land tracts originally granted to individuals by Calvert County and known by such names as The Hatchet, Purchase, Dove's Perch, and Ludford's Although the region is characterized by fertile agricultural lands, fed by Swanson's Creek on the west and by the Patuxent River on the east, settlement in the area was less dense than that further north, and the growth of population progressed at a The history of the area has depended on the use of slower rate. its land and particularly on the development of a tobacco-based economic and social structure. The character of the society that gradually evolved was rooted in traditional agricultural practices and the sequential inheritance of farms from generation to generation.

Crucial to the economic structure was the role played by the Patuxent River, both in feeding the land and in providing a transportation route for shipping tobacco crops to market. 1747 the tobacco production of the area was sufficient to warrant the proposal of a tobacco inspection warehouse site at Trueman's Point. Although the warehouse site was actually relocated further north. Trueman's Point and other landings were used to collect the region's crops for shipment north to Baltimore. produce was transported out of the area by the Patuxent, other goods were brought in. The importance of the river in transporting people and products, including building materials and furniture, did not diminish until the early twentieth century.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

The variety of occupations and levels of prosperity among the nineteenth century residents is evident in the wide range of houses still existing in the area. Some of the oldest houses were modest farmhouses, gradually enlarged over the years as families and their resources grew. The Michael J. Stone House (#9) and the Cochrane House (#16) are good examples of additive vernacular architecture. In some cases, enlargements were made by pushing one small house up against another and building a passageway between them (St. Mary's Rectory, #35, J.C. Thomas House, #1). Some of the smallest houses that still stand may have been laborers' or tenants' cottages on larger farms (Thomas Tenant House, #4); others may have sheltered servants or slaves (J.E. Turner House outbuilding, #37).

The largest houses in the area were built as country estates by the most prominent families. The William Barker House of the 1830s (#28), the Forbes House (Villa de Sales) of the 1870s (#29), and the Adams-Bowen house of 1890 (#3) are all interesting examples of ornate, stylish architecture, unusual in the rural areas of southern Maryland. These houses were surrounded by large land holdings, but they were the residences of gentlemen farmers who were often engaged in other occupations outside of the immediate locality,

In the nineteenth century the settlement along Aquasco Road became more than a simple cluster of farmhouses. Several social institutions appeared in the area defining the town center. George Howells operated a tavern beside the road which in later years was known as Temperance Hall. While the public house was surely a gathering place, other social needs were met by the churches that had established chapels in the town. The 1830s and 1840s had seen the construction of both the Episcopal Church. St. Mary's Chapel (#34), and a Methodist Episcopal Church (no longer standing, site #19) along Aquasco Road. The Catholic Chapel, St. Dominic's (#30), was erected in 1879. The town of Aquasco was recognized by formal public services, too, which included a post office and School No. 9, both of which appear on "Martinet's Map of Prince George's County, 1861."

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Through the eighteenth century, the area was characterized by large farms primarily in tobacco cultivation, owned by a few families. Access to the area by land would have been limited to pathways linking the farms and leading to the principal road which ran north to Horsehead. The farmhouses were not clustered in the eighteenth century, but were more likely scattered thinly in the area on the large land tracts. The population of the area gradually grew over the years, with new families buying land and settling in the area. It was the nineteenth century which saw the development of a discernible community along Aquasco Road. As the entire region developed and newcomers entered the area, they tended to build their houses between the creek and the river, on the relatively dry ground above the floodplain, near the land route to larger communities to the north.

Although farming continued to be the main occupation of the area's residents, other services, skills and institutions were introduced to the community. Mid-nineteenth century maps indicate the locations of a grist mill, several small stores, a local tavern, churches, and both a post office and a school centered around Aquasco Road.

The mill, which is now a ruin (Inventory #6), was located on the edge of Swanson's Creek and was approached by a lane leading west from Aquasco Road. From its construction c. 1789 until the 1920s, the mill provided an important local service to the relatively self-sufficient community. Similarly, the small general stores supplied the farmers with those items they could not produce themselves and provided a variety of goods, including foodstuffs, for those residents who did not farm.

Among the residents of Aquasco in the mid-nineteenth century were descendants of some of the earliest settlers in the region: Craycrofts, Woods, and Truemans. Other families, including the Contees and the Bowlings, had moved into the area in the eighteenth century. The 1850 census provides a valuable view of the community at that time. Important families whose long-term residence in the area shaped the town's history included the Bowens, Bowlings, Canters, Chichesters, Craycrofts, DeMarrs, Forbeses, Halls, McPhersons, Mortons, Scotts, Selbys, Sommmervilles, Stones, Thomases, Turners, and Woods. While most of the occupation listings were farmer or planter, or laborer or overseer, other listings included cooper, miller, blacksmith, merchant, physician, minister, postmaster, and school teacher.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

The Civil War brought subtle changes in the town's Although there were not a large number of slaves in the area prior to the war, and while Emancipation thus did not radically affect the agricultural system, it did allow the balck Two churches were population to assert its presence in new ways. built by freedmen after the war, the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1868, and St. Philip's Chapel, the first Episcopal chapel for blacks in the county, in 1878. African Methodist Church has been replaced by a modern building. and St. Philip's Chapel was destroyed by fire in 1976. sites and cemeteries are still in use (St. Philip's Chapel Site. County legislation requiring provision of universal public primary education led to the establishment of a series of small schools for black children, which were maintained separately from the school for whites.

The black population of both workers and landowners gradually rose in the late nineteenth century, as some of the large land-holding families sold off portions of their properties The character of the to both black and white newcomers. area--large farms retained in family ownership for generations and a variety of closely-knit individuals and institutions in the community--slowly began to erode as the twentieth century progressed. There was a strong sense of community still present in the early 1900s; several of the residents built a town social hall near the corner of Aquasco and Dr. Bowen Roads, where dances, social meetings, and supper parties were held. was still the predominant way of life in the area, and many of the older families, which had frequently intermarried together. However, with the first still held substantial portions of land. World War and the introduction of the automobile, the relatively insulated community began to feel the effects of increased interaction with the major cities of Washington and Baltimore and the larger towns in the surrounding counties. Increasingly. children growing up in Aquasco left the town, their families' properties being sold in smaller lots to unrelated buyers.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Recent changes in the community include the influx of a non-agrarian population, living on small one- to five-acre lots. and the introduction of modern facilities such as gas stations and other retail stores. Despite these changes, the twon of Aquasco has not suffered from strong development pressures, in part because of its distance from Washington. The Aquasco Speedway, an automobile racing strip, and the Pepco power plant, built in 1964, have been the most significant intrusions on the Several of the newer families living in the surrounding area. older houses have been attracted to the Aquasco area largely because of its relatively undisturbed rural character. landscape is still an agrarian one, with tobacco farming much in evidence, and many of the houses with their associated outbuildings and properties are still standing in a clear visual representation of the town's development and its rich nineteenth century character.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the historic district were drawn along contiguous property lines to include a historically and geographically cohesive district.

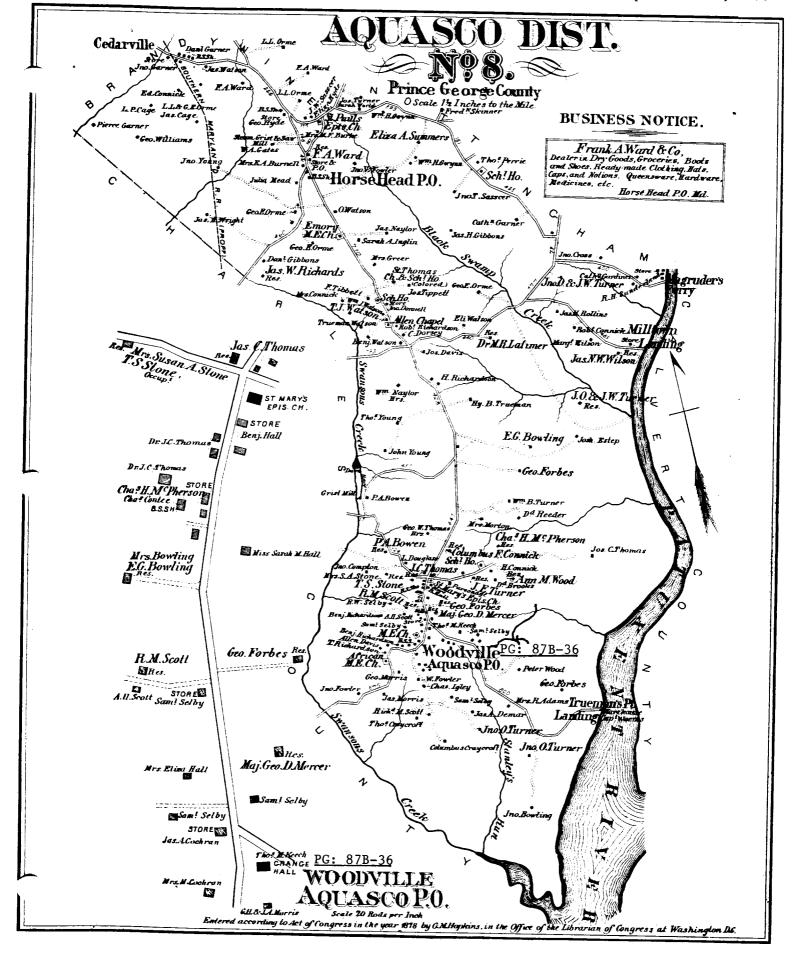
The western boundary is the Prince George's and Calvert County line, from the northern edge of the Marcus J. Schmeltz property (Map 180, p. 113) to the southern corner of the Peter W. Compton property (Map 180, p. 44). The northern boundary begins at the northeast corner of parcel 113 and runs along the north and eastern boundaries of that property to the center line of Dr. Bowen Road, thence along the center line of the road to the juncture with parcel 106, and thence running generally east along contiguous property lines to encompass parcels 106, 8699, 69, 70 and 29, then crossing Aquasco Road (Maryland Rt. 381) and continuing generally east along contiguous property lines to encompass parcels 133, 32, 74, and 115. The eastern boundary begins at the juncture of parcel 115 and St. Mary's Church Road and runs west along the center line of that road to the juncture with parcel 128, thence running generally south along the contiguous property lines of parcels 128, 59, and 60, crossing Eagle Harbor Road at the juncture with the John Wesley Church property (Map 182, parcel 57) and continuing south along the contiguous property lines encompassing parcels 57, 88, and 84. The southern boundary runs from the juncture of parcel 84 and Neck Road west, across Neck and Aquasco Roads, to the eastern boundary of parcel 11. and thence around the east, south and west boundaries of parcel 11 and continuing generally north along the contiguous property lines of parcels 11, 101, 9, 39, 8, 7, and 63 to St. Philip's Road, and thence generally west along the center line of St. Philip's Road to the southwest corner of parcel 3, following the contiguous boundary line northwest to encompass parcels 3 (Map 182) and 44 (Map 180), terminating at the Charles County line.

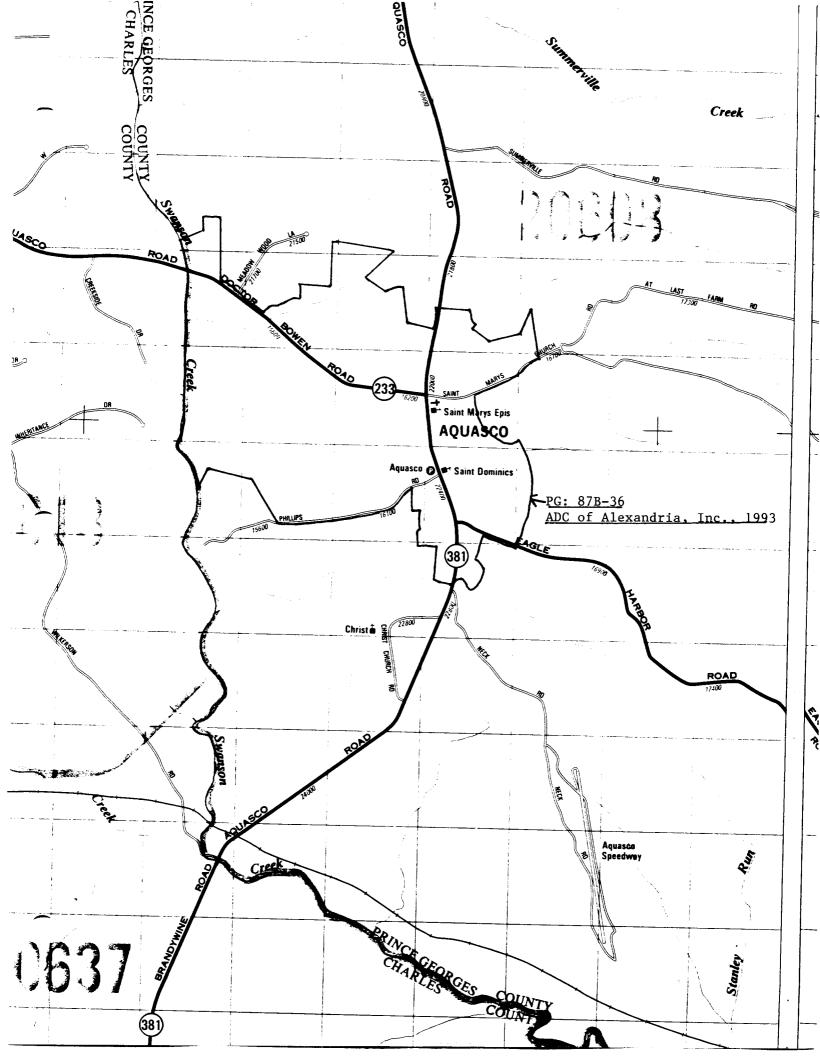
9. Major Bibliographical References

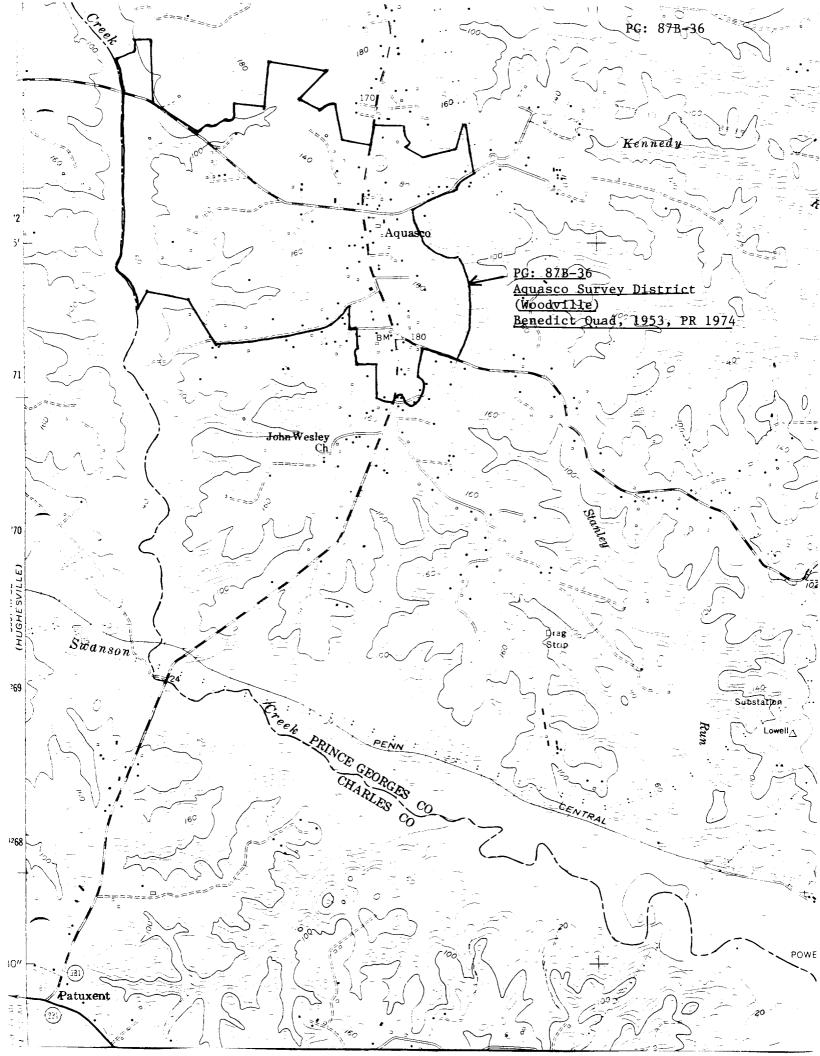
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See Continuation Sheets Nos. 11 and 12.

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ame/title	David Maloney, Krys	tyna Puc, Traies		
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street & number			state	District of Columbia
city or town	Washington		State	Cortification
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The evaluated sig	nificance of this property w	Ithin the state is.		
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As the designate	d State Historic Preservation	n Officer for the National R	lai mistoric P legister and	Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89- certify that it has been evaluated and Recreation Service.
665), i hereby not	minate this property for inclication and procedures set	forth by the Heritage C	onservation	and Recreation Service.
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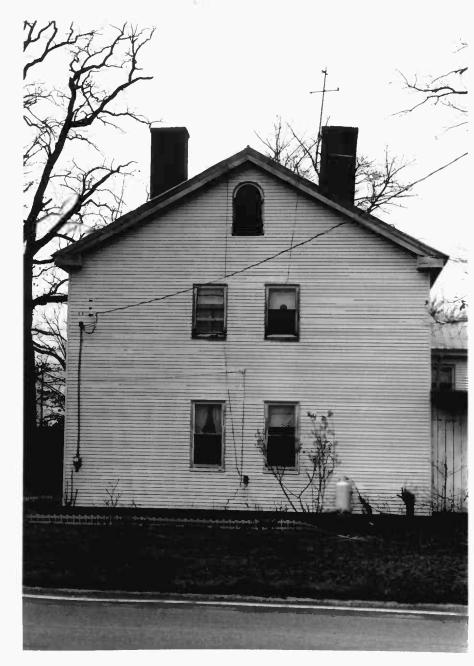


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Thomas House

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PG: 87B-36

Thomas house

22109 aquesoo Road

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PG: 87B-36 adams - Bown house 16002 Dl. Baren ad.



PG: 87B-36 Adams - Bosch Honse 16002 Dr. Bosch Rd.



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adams Bowen Alable

16002 Mr. Barden Road



PG: 878-36

Thomas tenant house

#4



PG: 87B-36 Agenses 4 Mei Penns Map 180 gareel 113

#6



9. A. Bonka House 1570/ St. Bonka Rd.



PG: 878-36

P. A. Bench Checker Coop

1570/ Ll. Boneta Rd.



Sunnyside

16005 Dr. Bowen Road, Equaseo



PG: 878-36 Sanneysede tobacce barn 16005 Dr. Bouren Rd.



P6:87B-36

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PG: 878-36

Ymny Farmsonse 22411 Aguasco Rd.



DG: 878-36 Wilson Konse 16200 St. Philips Rd.

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PG: 87 B-36 Lace farmkonse 16000 St. Philips Rd.



P6:87B-36 Selley lotacoc bain 15900 St. Philips Ad.



St. Philips Chapel site 16205 St Philip's Rd.

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PG: 87B-36 Cochran- Grunis Konse 22609 Aguessa Ad



PG: 87B-36 Shirris Store 22701 aguesco Rd

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Methodist Epercapal Theirch Sete

2280/ agresac Rd.



PG: 878-36 Wood House 22606 Aguasco Rd.



Writian Backher Konse. 22600 aguasco Id.



Villa de Sales 22410 Aquesco Pd.

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PG: 87B-36 Villa de Sales stable 22410 aguesco Rd. * 29



PG: 87B-36 Villa de Aales 22410 Aguasco Ad



PG: 878-36 St. Dominic's Roman Cattolic Chapel 22400 aguas co Rd



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PG: 87 B-36 St. Mary's Chapel 22200 Coquesco Rd.



PG: 87B-36 St. Mary's Readowy 16305 St. Mary's Church Rd.



PG: 87B-36

J. E. Turner house

16410 St. Mary's Cherrot Rd.



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Connick - Glascoe Konse 21806 aguasco Ad.